

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0737

INFO SEC DEF PRIORITY

JCS

USCINCSO PRIORITY

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL MASS GT US

SUBJECT: GOG ASKS FOR FMS CASH SALE OF THIRD HELICOPTER

REF GUATEMALA 1911, STATE 7207, 75 GUATEMALA 6904

1. AT REQUEST OF PRESIDENT AND WITH APPROVAL OF AMBASSADOR, COMUSMILGP SAW PRESIDENT LAUGERUD AT 1700 HOURS MARCH 8. PRESIDENT SAID TECHNICAL ANALYSIS, IN WHICH HE ACKNOWLEDGED ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY MILGP, HAD SHOWN THAT UH-1B HELICOPTERS AVAILABLE UNDER MIMREX OFFER 1423 (SEE PARA 5 OF STATE 7207) WOULD NOT BE FULLY COMPATIBLE WITH GUATEMALA'S UH-1H HELICOPTERS. IN VIEW OF THIS AND URGENT NEED FOR HELICOPTERS PRESIDENT HAD DECIDED CANCEL PURCHASE OF FIVE UH-1B'S UNDER MIMEX AND USE MONEY THAT HAD BEEN SET ASIDE FOR THAT PURPOSE TO BUY A THIRD UH-1H AS FMS CASH SALE (IN ADDITION TO THE TWO UH-1H'S BEING PURCHASED UNDER FY 1976 FMS CREDIT).

2. PRESIDENT STRESSED AGAIN THE URGENCY FO ACQUIRING THE NEW HELOCOPTERS. GAF COULD GET ALONG FOR A WHILE WITHOUT THE SPARE PARTS IT STILL LACKS, NOW THAT SOME HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FROM CONUS. (PRESIDENT SAID TWO OF GUATEMAKA'S CURRENT INVENTORY OF SIX HELI-

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COPTERS WOULD BE FLYING AGAIN MARCH 10 AFTER SUCCESSFUL MAINTENANCE

AND REPAIR.) BUT WHEN RAINY SEASON STARTS, PRESIDENT SAID, THERE WILL BE NEW LANDSLIDES, VILLAGES WILL AGAIN BE CUT, AND HELICOPTERS WILL BE FLYING EVERY POSSIBLE MINUTE. MILGP COMMANDER TOLD PRESIDENT PROCUREMENT ACTION WAS PROCEEDING URGENTLY ON FIRST TWO UH-1H'S AND HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY REPORT PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR A THIRD.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: AMBASSADOR REQUESTS THAT NORMAL PRICE AND AVAILABILITY PROCEDURES BE WAIVED AND THAT FMS CASH SALE CONTRACT FOR THIRD HELICOPTER, LIKE FMS CREDIT CONTRACTS FOR FIRST TWO, BE MAILED EXPEDITIOUSLY TO COMUSMILGP FOR SIGNATURE BY APPROPRIATE GOG OFFICIALS.

4. PRESIDENT SAID IN PASSING THAT HE WOULD BE TALKING WITH AMBASSADOR (PROBABLY MARCH 10, WHEN THEY INSPECT THE ENGINEER BATTALION) ABOUT HIS INTEREST IN HAVING US EXPERTS ADVISE GOG ON BEST METHOD OF REPLACING PUERTO BARRIOS PORT FACILITIES DAMAGED IN EARTHQUAKE. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD A MR. REEVES, WHO WORKS WITH OR FOR THE SEABEES, HAD ADVISED ON PORT CONSTRUCTION IN MANILA AND VIETNAM AND HE MIGHT BE THE MAN GUATEMALA NEEDED. COMMENT: MISSION UNDERSTANDS WORLD BANK HAS BEEN CONTACTED CONCERNING FINANCING OF NEW PIER FOR PUERTO BARRIOS AND MAY BE PLANNING SENDING ITS OWN SURVE TEAM TO GUATEMALA. PLEASE ADVISE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON IBRD PLANS.
MELOY

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